

M. M. LIEVINOV'S DIARY.

Talk with Yoshisawa, Japanese Foreign Minister
over a cup of coffee on December 1931.

Mr. Y. thanked for the courtesy and attention paid to him during travelling and for breakfast arranged for him. I told him that we learnt with satisfaction of his having been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs. He had signed the Peking agreement and in such a way had personally participated in laying the foundation of our present relations, and therefore we were glad that the preservation of those relations was then in his hands. The preservation of peaceful and friendly relations with all our neighbors including Japan is a foundation of our foreign policy.

Mr. Y. replied that he was proud of the role he had played in establishing relations with us.

After his appointment he was not in contact with his Government and therefore could not speak on its behalf, but he personally was in favor of preserving and improving relations with us and therefore he was glad to hear from me of similar intentions on our part.

I concurred with Yoshisawa, that prior to the exchange of opinions with his colleagues in the Government he could not make any official statements on behalf of the Government, but that his personal views of relations between our countries were also valuable. I also concur with Y's supposition of the possibility and desirability of improving these relations, and think that it could be achieved by some new act. We are conducting negotiations with Poland, are starting negotiations with Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Roumania with the aim of concluding pacts of non-aggression and neutrality. We have concluded such pacts with Germany, Lithuania, Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan. The pact with France has been initialled. When these negotiations are completed and the pacts signed, we shall be bound by the pacts of non-aggression with all our neighbors with the exception of Japan.

We consider that this gap should be filled, otherwise there will be a queer situation that Japan will be our only neighbor who has no pact of non-aggression with us. Such a pact expresses the peaceful policy and intentions of the Governments, and it will be well-timed especially now when the future of the Japanese-Russian relations is the subject of speculations in Western Europe and America. The conclusion of this pact would put an end to these speculations. I therefore decided to make use of the opportunity of forwarding through Yoshisawa a proposal, to the Japanese Government to open negotiations concerning the conclusion of the non-aggression pact.

This proposal took Yoshisawa, just as well as Hirota who attended the talk, obviously by surprise. Having inquired in detail about the progress of negotiations with other countries mentioned by me in

the course of our talk, Yoshisawa again repeated that he had been suddenly called from Paris to Tokyo and had, therefore, no time to make the policy of the new cabinet clear to himself, but that he certainly would not forget to forward our proposal to the Government. He asked whether that proposal had been made by us before, through Hirota, or comrade Troyanovsky. Comrade Karahan made it clear to him that in Tokyo in 1928 and even in 1930 there were conversations on the subject. I added that, of course, we did not expect to receive an official reply from Yoshisawa, which we would be forwarded through comrade Troyanovsky, or Hirota, but I was interested to know Mr. Yoshisawa's personal opinion.

Y. refrained from further talk on that subject and asked me whether I wanted to forward anything to Tokyo.

The copy is correct.

DIRECTOR OF THE STATE CENTRAL RECORD
OFFICE OF THE U. S. S. R.

Professor Maksakov

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENT:

I, A. V. Kunin, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the Russian and English languages: and the above is a correct and true translation of the indicated Document.

Signature: /s/ A. Kunin

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lt. Colonel TARANENKO, G. I., a member of the military forces of the U.S.S.R., do hereby certify that a copy of M. M. Litvinov's diary-record of his talk with Oshisawa, Japanese Foreign Minister of December 31, 1931 on 3 sheets was delivered to me by the Central State Historical Record Office of the U.S.S.R. on or about June 7, 1946, and that the original of the said document may be found in the Central State Historical Record Office of the USSR in Moscow.

I do further certify _____

Lt. Col. TARANENKO /s/
Signature and rank

Tokyo, Japan

2 July, 1946.